

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2010

The President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

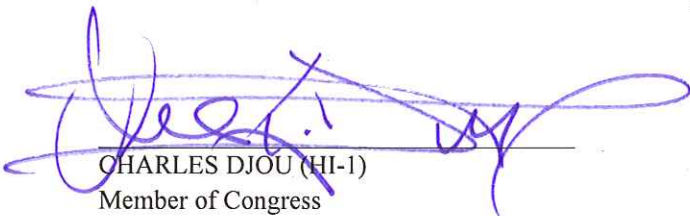
In response to the ongoing disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, we respectfully request that you use your authority to waive Title 46, United States Code, 55101, the Jones Act, for the Gulf States. We believe that it is in our national environmental and economic interests to seek all available help in the clean-up effort. We cannot allow a ninety-year old law to hinder the effort or give the appearance that barriers exist to our allies.

As you explained to the nation, we must provide every available resource to combat the spill and protect the coast. We are in complete agreement with you. In short, the Jones Act stands in the way of fulfilling your pledge. The current waiver procedures are inadequate. The procedures are inhibiting foreign resources from assisting in the spill and creating unnecessary bureaucratic delays.

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Congress revised the Jones Act to ensure that specific foreign assets could assist during an oil spill. But, uncertainty regarding the procedures and inconsistent statements from the State Department, Coast Guard and other agencies has kept foreign vessels from coming to our aid. A clear statement temporarily waiving the Jones Act would send a clear message to our allies that we welcome their assistance and that we are serious about ending this disaster.

The purpose of the Jones Act is to protect American jobs and the maritime industry. At present, the oil spill is the real threat to American jobs. Jobs in the Gulf Coast region depend on the speed and efficiency of the clean-up effort. We look forward to working with you on this matter and stand ready to assist in any way possible.

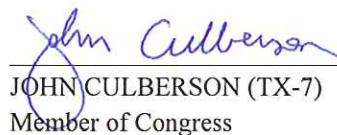
Sincerely,



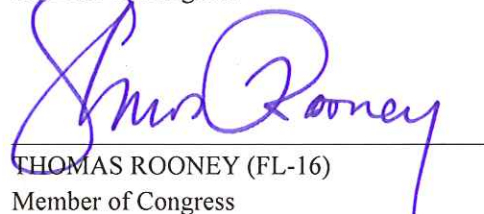
CHARLES DJOU (HI-1)  
Member of Congress



GINNY BROWN-WAITE (FL-5)  
Member of Congress



JOHN CULBERSON (TX-7)  
Member of Congress



THOMAS ROONEY (FL-16)  
Member of Congress

Ron Paul